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Title : Increase in the prices of all food items.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam Speaker, through you, I draw the attention of the Government towards a problem being faced by millions and millions of people of our country. The lives of eighty per cent of the people of our country have become miserable because of abnormal rise in the prices of all the essential commodities. In our country, 77 per cent of the people depend on only Rs. 20 a day. How can the people survive with such increase in the prices of almost all the essential commodities?

Madam Speaker, within one year we find how the prices have increased. In the case of potato, the increase is more than 200 per cent. In the case of pulses, like *arhar*, it is 35.4 per cent, within one year. This is the wholesale price index. Now, the price of *arhar* is more than Rs. 80 per kg. The pulses are called poor man's protein. The prices of almost all the pulses – *arhar, masoor, chana, urad, moong* are not less than Rs. 80/-. In the case of edible oil and mustard oil, the situation is the same and it has reached Rs. 90/- which never happened. The increase in the price of rice is more than 30 per cent within one year. This is the wholesale price index. If you see the consumer price index, it is much more than the increase in the wholesale price index. The Government is saying that the inflation is negative. Today, it is -1.21 per cent. Inflation is negative whereas the prices are increasing. The Government has failed to control and contain the prices. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is a stipulation that hoarding is taking place; and because of delayed monsoon, there will be less production of kharif this year and there will be artificial crisis.

Madam, there is a need to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS). There is a need to amend the Essential Commodities Act. More and more commodities should be brought under the essential commodities. However, the Government, so far, is quite indifferent. The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food is present in the House. He should assure the House as to what plan of action the Government is contemplating to control and contain the prices of almost all the essential commodities. The livelihood of common people has become miserable. This is the concern of 80 per cent people of our country, but the Government is quite indifferent. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I demand that the Government should tell the House as to what measures it is contemplating to take to control the prices so that the livelihood of the people can be saved. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, the Public Distribution System should be strengthened. It should be universalized and the Government should immediately call the meeting of Food Ministers of all the States. The Government should take concrete measures to contain and control the prices of all the essential commodities....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Ananth Kumar.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, whatever Shri Basu Deb Acharia speaks will not go in the record.

*(Interruptions) â€¦ **

श्री शरद यादव (मधेपुरा): अध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात उठाई है, दो बातों के चलते महंगाई बढ़ी है। एक तो डीज़ल

के दाम बढ़े हैं और ऐसा मौसम है। डीज़ल के दाम तो सरकार के हाथ में हैं। ...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप अपने को उससे संबद्ध कर लीजिए।

श्री शरद यादव : डीज़ल के दाम थोड़ा घटाने का काम करें तो स्थिति कुछ ठीक होगी। ...(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, I have already told that you have been associated with this matter. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Government.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : सरकार सदन को बताए, देश को बताए। ...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : बसुदेव आचार्य जी, यह ज़ीरो आवर है। आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री हरिन पाठक (अहमदाबाद पूर्व): इस पर नियम 193 के तहत चर्चा कराइए। मैंने नोटिस दिया हुआ है। ...(व्यवधान)

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* Not recorded

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Madam, we want Half-an-Hour Discussion on this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Today, there is a discussion on two Ministries, namely, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. You can raise all these issues during the discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have called Shri Ananth Kuimar.